

**USAID ENVIRONMENTAL TRAINING WORKSHOP**  
**Millennium Plus One:**  
**Integrated Water Resources Management in the New Century**

**July 15-21, 2001**  
**Rocky Gap Lodge and Resort**  
**Cumberland, Maryland**

**WORKSHOP SUMMARY**

## **Millennium Plus One: Integrated Water Resources Management in the New Century**

### **Summary**

Enormous environmental challenges face the planet in the new century. USAID Missions are increasingly finding themselves confronted with environmental issues that cut across programmatic lines and require a more integrated approach to resolve them.

In response to the growing need for USAID staff to design and implement more integrated environmental programs, the Environment Center (ENR) of USAID's Global Bureau recently sponsored a comprehensive environment training workshop for all Agency environment officers and other interested staff. The Agency Water Team, based in the ENR office, planned and organized this training event, which was the most ambitious and comprehensive of its kind in two years and came at a critical period of transition within the Agency.

The workshop, entitled *Millennium Plus One: Integrated Water Resources Management in the New Century*, was held at Rocky Gap, Md. from July 15-21, 2001. A total of 133 individuals participated in the five-day workshop, including 49 USAID mission staff and 73 USAID/Washington-based staff, plus 11 representatives from other USG agencies including State, USDA, NOAA, USBR, and USDOE. (See attachment 1 for a complete list of workshop participants, presenters and organizers.)

As a unifying theme, the training workshop highlighted the critical issue of water resources management, which provides important examples and lessons of integrated approaches that can be used by USAID staff for effective environmental management. Water was selected because it is a vital resource for every ecosystem, society and individual on earth, and a key element of every sector in which USAID works. Health, environment, agriculture and food security, economic development, democracy and governance, and natural disaster response and mitigation all have strong linkages with, and dependencies on, how water is allocated and used.

### **Workshop Objectives:**

- Review the latest thinking about the environment, particularly how cross-cutting approaches, including integrated water resources management (IWRM), can be used to improve current programs and design new programs in USAID portfolios.
- Explore key concepts and technical tools to support USAID environment programs

- Examine critical environmental issues facing USAID, including those related to water resource management, and develop approaches for addressing them programmatically.

The overall purpose of the workshop was to provide a forum for participants to develop a greater awareness of environmental issues the world is facing, become more knowledgeable about and conversant with the facets of these issues, and, specifically, to be able to see and act upon water's linkages to the range of sectors in which USAID staff are currently engaged.

Highlights of the week included stimulating plenary sessions by several well-known water and environment experts. Topics and presenters of plenary keynote sessions included:

- *Opening Video Address*, by Mr. Andrew Natsios, USAID Administrator
- *Peering into the Future: Water in the 21<sup>st</sup> Century*, by Dr. Peter Gleick, Pacific Institute for Studies in Development, Environment, and Security
- *Integrated Water Resources Management: Concepts and Practices* by Dr. Peter Rogers, Gordon McKay Professor of Environmental Engineering, Harvard University and Dr. Frank Rijsberman, Director of IWMI
- *Competition for a Scarce Resource: Threats and Opportunities for the Water Sector*, by Dr. Aaron Wolf, Oregon State University and Dr. Roland Steiner, Washington Suburban Sanitary Commission
- *Worldwide Overview of Water Related Agency Activity*, by Richard Volk and Meg Findley, both with the G/ENV
- *Bilaterals in a Multilateral World*, video presentation by Franklin Moore
- *The Global Water Partnership* by Margaret Catley-Carlson, Chair of the Global Water Partnership

In addition to the keynote sessions, participants could choose from 40 concurrent sessions throughout the week where outside presenters and USAID staff explored water issues in their own right, as well as in relation to a variety of other sectors including biodiversity, energy, environmental health, sustainable agriculture, and urban development.

Major themes of the concurrent sessions by day:

Tuesday and Wednesday's

- Integrated Water Resources Management
- Water Supply and Sanitation
- Finite Water, Multiple Demands: A Sector Level View
- Cross Cutting Issues
- Environmental Trends

Thursday and Friday's Tools Sessions

- Environment and Natural Resources Tools
- Municipal Water Supply, Sanitation and Wastewater Tools

- Data and Information Tools
- Socio – Economic and Institutional Tools
- Tools for Crosscutting Water Issues

Wednesday's site visits provided an opportunity for group members to experience and explore applications of IWRM concepts by local, state and federal authorities and private sector groups working in the Potomac River Basin of Western Maryland.

Site visit options included:

- Option 1: *Local Programs for Flood protection, River Restoration and Wastewater Treatment* (Alleghany County Dept. of Public Works)
- Option 2: *Coal Mine Operation and Reclamation: Low-Cost Solutions for Mitigation of Water Quality Impacts and Local Partnerships for Resource Management* (Maryland Dept. of the Environment / Canaan Valley Institute)
- Option 3: *Multiple Uses and Impacts of the Jennings Randolph Dam* (U.S. Army Corps of Engineers)
- Option 4: *Water Data Management: Data Collection and Analysis for Resource Assessment, Monitoring and Forecasting* (U.S. Geological Survey, National Water Service)
- Option 5: *Dam and Watershed management: Recreation, Water Quality, and Industrial Wastewater Treatment* (Upper Potomac River Commission and Savage River State Forest)

Participants also had the opportunity to review and discuss more than 10 contracting mechanisms available to USAID missions for accessing environmental experts and projects. Representatives from a number of private sector firms, NGOs, and governmental agencies set up exhibits on Thursday for USAID staff to visit.

Mission and Bureau staff had three opportunities during the week to discuss regional issues. The objectives of the regional sessions were to identify burning IWRM and environmental issues facing the region; identify ways of dealing with the issues, based on ideas discussed during the workshop; and identify resources needed from USAID/W to better support mission or regional water and / or environmental programs.

In addition to learning about water resources and other topical environmental issues from experts and each other, participants were also able to engage agency staff on issues related to new agency leadership priorities, future programmatic directions, and personnel concerns.

The week also included numerous networking opportunities, including breakfast discussion topics, environmental movies on 4 nights, and birding on Thursday morning.

## Workshop Results

Fifty-seven participants completed the evaluation form prior to leaving the workshop, including 27 mission staff, 21 Washington based staff, and 8 who were either non-USAID staff or did not categorize themselves.

A majority of participants indicated that the workshop objectives were successfully met. On a scale of 1 to 5, with 5 being high, participants ranked the achievement of the three workshop objectives as follows:

- Review the latest thinking about the environment, particularly how cross-cutting approaches, including integrated water resources management (IWRM), can be used to improve current programs and design new programs in USAID portfolios. [4.2](#)
- Explore key concepts and technical tools to support USAID environment programs. [4.1](#)
- Examine critical environmental issues facing USAID, including those related to water resource management, and develop approaches for addressing them programmatically. [4.1](#)

One quote sums up what the majority of participants said about the workshop:

"This was one of the best-organized and relevant workshops I have ever attended. At no time did I feel like my time could have been better used. I think the networking time was extremely important and valuable. It is very helpful to allow us time to interact with our colleagues and learn from them. This workshop should absolutely be held every two years, if not annually. It was a very unifying and informational workshop that gave me very specific new skills that I will use in a mission. Holding the workshop away from Washington, DC was very useful because it greatly enhanced the interaction among the participants. "

Another said the workshop was

"Very appropriate. Allowed us to go in depth and come away with approaches that can be implemented in mission."

Respondents liked the plenary sessions on day 1 and mentioned most of the workshop themes as being particularly useful. One person said

"All the sessions I attended were excellent. I only wish I could have cloned myself and attended other sessions."

The regional sessions received mixed reviews, with an equal number of people saying either that they were most useful or that they could have been improved. In fact, most of the sessions mentioned as most useful also received comments that they could have been done better.

A number of respondents mentioned that there were too many presenters and not enough time for discussion. Others commented that there were too many sessions to choose from. One individual summed it up this way:

“Less concurrent sessions and/or more time to discuss application of what is discussed and problems faced in the field”

Technical speakers and presenters generally received good reviews, although many respondents commented that they did not have enough time to present their results. One person said that:

“most speakers were good to excellent, however some had to go too fast due to time constraints”

Another said speakers were “Sometimes disappointing, because they often spent too much time on background and not the subject of the presentation”

Participants generally found the USAID-specific sessions useful, particularly on reorganization issues, “useful in understanding the flux ... the Agency is in” and “an excellent way to keep environmental staff ‘on the same page’ vis a vis administrative issues.

Facilitators and moderators were appreciated for their work.

Program coordination and logistical arrangements received high marks and very positive comments, illustrated by the following quote:

“Impressive. Your efforts to provide creative learning opportunities all day long (technical sessions, field trips, films, planned nature excursions, exhibits) provided a very interesting and well-rounded experience.”

and

“Planning and implementation were excellent – I was surprised at how few problems we had”

There were a number of recommendations for topics to cover at the next environment training workshop, including:

- Energy
- Conflict resolution
- Globalization
- Biodiversity
- Eco-governance
- Forest conservation
- Food security

- Women and environment
- Finance schemes

And many more

In summary, the participants seemed to think that the workshop was very effective and a good learning opportunity for them.

### **Contents of the CDRom**

You will find more detail about the workshop on this CDRom, which includes

- PowerPoints, abstracts and selected background material from the workshop presentations.
- Complete Workshop Agenda
- List of participants, presenters and organizers
- List of workshop steering group members
- Workshop evaluation results
- Descriptions of the site visits
- Results of the regional discussion sessions presented Friday morning